

California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley Telecommunications Work Group Progress Report March 2006

Scope of Work (Abbreviated):

- Work with CPUC to develop accurate maps reflecting actual highspeed access
- Develop action plan for one access model based on recommendations of Ad Hoc Task Force on Rural Communications
- Develop standards for high school technology literacy
- Identify innovative access models
- Identify business services that can be provided through telecommunications to strengthen economy and demand-side of access

Draft Vision:

The vision of the Telecommunications Work Group of the Governor's Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley is to develop innovative recommendations for the Partnership Board which, if implemented, would increase utilization of advanced communication services, particularly within very rural and/or low-income populations, and maintain levels equitable with California's metropolitan areas.

Progress to Date:

In response to the mapping issue, the CPUC is preparing a short briefing paper outlining the issues and challenges of ongoing access mapping. This should be ready for Work Group discussion in the next several weeks.

Draft guidelines for "broadband over power lines" will be before the CPUC board this month. The Work Group anticipates an industry presentation at the next meeting and an update on the results of the CPUC discussion.

Two new models for access have been developed and business plans for implementation have been drafted. One model targets community access for low-income residents. The other model targets economic development through online small business support and incubation. Both are currently being considered for implementation funding.

Staff is compiling legislative/regulatory changes for consideration by the Work Group. Those deemed most valuable will be forwarded onto the Partnership Board for consideration.

College literacy standards have been identified and will be discussed for possible adaptation at the high school level. While the Work Group may not be able to develop a complete set of standards during the next few months, it is anticipated they will make at least conceptual recommendations.